

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 183

By Akbari

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. John Barton Williams of Memphis.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely passing of Dr. John Barton Williams; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Williams was a brilliant orthopedic surgeon and beloved gentleman with a heart of gold; he was the embodiment of warmth and happiness; and

WHEREAS, born on July 31, 1984, in Memphis, Dr. Barton Williams was the eldest child of John Tom and Eva Dale Cocke Williams; he was a multi-sport athlete, an Eagle Scout, and the president and valedictorian of his 2003 graduating class at Covington High School; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Williams supplemented his education from Covington with summer attendance at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, and attendance at The American Legion Boys State; he was awarded Student of the Year in Tipton County and scored a 35 on the ACT on his first attempt; and

WHEREAS, following his high school graduation, Dr. Barton Williams attended Harvard College in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he was named National Gift Co-Chair for the Harvard College Fund, and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology; he then returned to Tennessee to attend the College of Medicine at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, where he served as the Medical Student Executive Council President; and

WHEREAS, an honors graduate, he completed his residency in orthopedic surgery at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, Utah, where he became the first recipient of the Senior Resident Teaching Award in 2016; he went on to complete a fellowship in orthopedic hand and microvascular surgery at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami, Florida; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Williams returned to Tennessee to practice medicine, becoming a partner at OrthoSouth, known formerly as OrthoMemphis; he also practiced one day per week in Covington at a clinic, serving the people of the small town in which he grew up; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Barton Williams recently married the love of his life, Peria Gober Williams; though their time was brief, their love was immense; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his wife, he leaves to mourn his memory his mother; brother, Dr. Allen Riddick (Lauren) Williams; sister, Lauren Williams (Logan) Wall; grandmothers, Louise McCraw Cocke and Nell Rhea Williams; and a number of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and lifelong friends; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his father and his grandfathers, William Hamblette Cocke, Jr., and Lawrence Jerry Williams; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Williams leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Dr. John Barton Williams, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Dr. Williams.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to

the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.